Met Office

July 2014

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

UK overview

Temperatures for July were above average across the UK, mainly due to warm days with many days having maximum temperatures above 25 °C, especially in the south-east. However, night-time temperatures were closer to average. There was plenty of warm, dry, sunny weather, but with the warmth leading to thunderstorms and localised downpours at times; the heaviest rain was generally across the south-east and East Anglia.

The UK mean temperature was 16.3 °C, which is 1.2 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. This ranks as the equal-8th warmest July in a series from 1910, but was not as warm as July 2013. July 2014 was the 8th consecutive month with above average temperatures for the UK. Rainfall was rather below average overall, particularly across Devon, Cornwall and south-west Wales, but well above average in parts of East Anglia. The UK overall received 83% of average rainfall. It was a sunny month for most areas, especially the west and north, with 129% of average sunshine hours for the UK overall, making it the equal-sixth sunniest July in a series since 1929 - though not as sunny as July 2013.

A maximum temperature of 32.3 °C was recorded at Gravesend (Kent) on the 18th. A minimum temperature of 0.8 °C was recorded at Katesbridge (County Down) on the 1st. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 5th, 92.6 mm of rain fell at Ennerdale, Black Sail (Cumbria). A wind gust of 59 mph were recorded at Warcop Range (Cumbria) on the 18th.

Weather impacts

Heavy showers caused some localised flooding in parts of England and Wales on the 7th and the 8th, with some notably high rainfall totals. The 10th was a wet and particularly cool day for parts of eastern England.

A warm spell of weather around mid-month ended in thunderstorms and heavy showers for some regions during Friday 18th to Sunday 20th; Norwich Airport recorded 45.8 mm - three-quarters of the normal monthly rainfall amount - in one hour. There was some flooding and disruption reported, with damage due to lightning strikes and problems with railway signalling equipment.

Heavy showers and thunderstorms resulted in some large rainfall totals in south-east England from 27th to 29th. Flash flooding caused localised problems on roads and railways in parts of Sussex on the morning of the 28th.

The Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on 23rd July and first few days of competition saw plenty of fine, warm, sunny weather. However, unfortunately the warm and often rather humid conditions resulted in ideal conditions for slugs in the UK's gardens, and also for mosquitoes in the London area.

The following image is from the NERC Satellite Receiving Station, Dundee University

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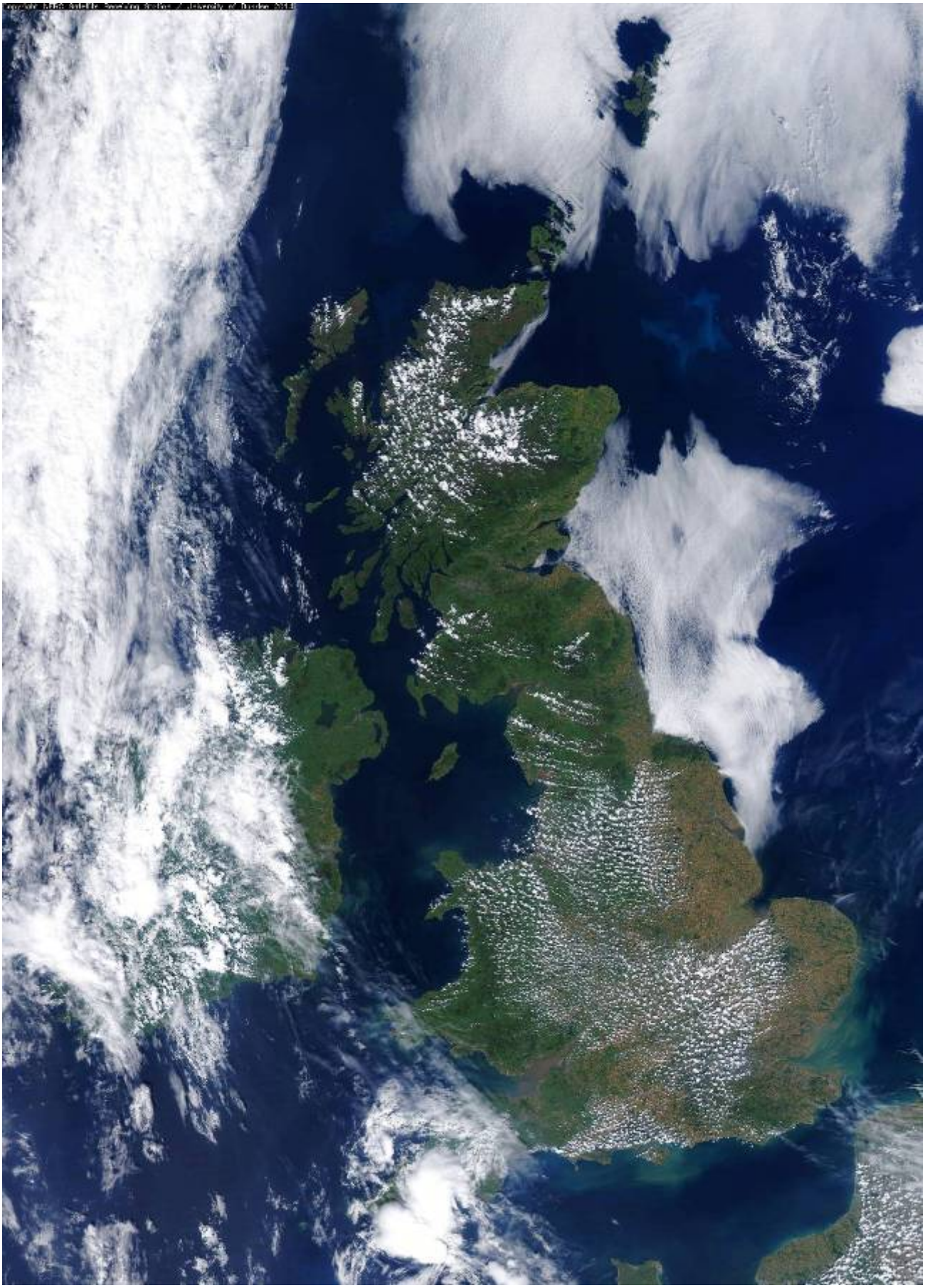

Satellite image of fog over the North Sea on 24 July 2014

England diary of highlights

The month opened with a spell of fine and warm weather, and this continued through much of the month although there were some showers and thunderstorms at times. There was a dry, hot spell around mid-month with temperatures reaching 30 °C widely in London and East Anglia on the 18th. It remained very warm or hot until the last few days, with further localised thunderstorms and downpours.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.3 °C above the 1981-2010 average, and this was the 9th warmest July in a series from 1910 (though not as warm as July 2013). Rainfall overall was 83% of average, but parts of south-west England had only around half the average rainfall. However, East Anglia was wetter than average with nearly double the normal rainfall amount for parts of Essex. Sunshine amounts were above average for most areas with 127% of average overall (though not as sunny as July 2013).

1st to 3rd:

The 1st was mainly dry and bright, although very isolated heavy showers broke out in parts of Lancashire and Lincolnshire in the afternoon. The 2nd was dry and warm with plenty of sunshine for most, but patchy rain spread into northern areas in the afternoon and edged slowly south. The 3rd was generally dry and warm, up to 27.3 °C at Writtle (Essex), although patchy rain reached the far north-west by the evening.

4th to 13th:

The 4th saw rain spreading from the west, and was increasingly windy. Overnight rain cleared the east early in the morning of the 5th to leave a bright day but with scattered showers in the south-east. Eastern coastal areas had rain for much of the 6th, with scattered showers elsewhere. The 7th was a day of showers, heaviest and most frequent in the south-west with isolated thunderstorms in the West Country. The 8th was again unsettled with widespread showers and thunderstorms, heaviest in eastern areas. The 9th was drier with sunny spells, but cooler on the east coast in a fresh north-east wind. There was a band of rain on the 10th affecting eastern areas from Humberside to Kent, with temperatures no higher than 15 °C in places, but elsewhere it was dry, sunny and warm. The 11th was dry with sunshine apart from scattered showers over the south-east during the morning. Dry and sunny on the 12th until heavy showers broke out during the afternoon in some western areas, with thunderstorms in the east from Humberside to Kent, but temperatures reached 27 °C in Central London. The showers and thunderstorms stretched down the east coast on the 13th with the heaviest in Suffolk and Norfolk; Wattisham (Suffolk) recorded 36.2 mm, with 30 mm of this falling within 1 hour during the afternoon, but it was another warm day for most places.

14th to 17th:

The 14th was mainly fine, the best of the sunshine in the east, but with a few afternoon showers in the west. The 15th was generally dry, warm and sunny. A dry start on the 16th before a band of rain in the north-west spread across the country later, but this failed to reach the south-east where it stayed mainly dry and warm with 27.9 °C recorded at Writtle (Essex). It was mostly dry and very warm but muggy on the 17th, with only a few scattered light showers, but rain reached the south-west during the evening.

18th to 31st:

The 18th started with heavy thundery showers in the Midlands and East Anglia, and another area of heavy thunderstorms spread into southern areas during the evening with Westonbirt (Gloucestershire) recording 50 mm. It was also the warmest day of the year so far with 32.3 °C recorded at Gravesend (Kent). On the 19th, showers and thunderstorms spread northwards, heaviest and most frequent in the Midlands and the north-east. The 20th saw the showers and thunderstorms more scattered with Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the south-east most prone; Norwich recorded 49 mm, of which 46 mm fell in one hour in the afternoon. The 21st to 24th saw a return to mainly dry and sunny conditions, and very warm in the south with temperatures up to 30 °C on

the coast, although heavy showers developed in Cornwall later on the 24th. The 25th was again hot and sunny for many areas, but with scattered heavy showers and thunderstorms in the south. The 26th was generally dry and bright with only very isolated showers in the Midlands, but rain spread into the north-west during the evening. A mainly dry and bright day on the 27th but not as warm as of late; isolated afternoon showers broke out in the south-east and the north-west. Heavy thunderstorms in Norfolk and Suffolk early on the 28th saw Santon Downham (Suffolk) recording 51.2 mm, but the showers became lighter during the day and other areas were generally dry and bright. The 29th was mainly dry with sunny spells. The 30th was generally dry and bright but light showers affected the far north in the afternoon. A band of patchy rain spread from the west during the day on the 31st, with a few heavy bursts in the east later.

Wales diary of highlights

The month opened with a rather unsettled spell, but it settled down after the first week, gradually becoming much warmer with plenty of dry, fine, sunny and occasionally hot weather. However, there were also some outbreaks of thunderstorms at times from mid-month. The last few days were cooler and fresher.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.0 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall overall was only 62% of average, and it was particularly dry towards the south-west. Sunshine amounts were well above average generally, and Wales overall received 131% of average sunshine hours.

1st to 8th:

The 1st was dry and sunny with 24.2 °C recorded at Porthmadog (Gwynedd). Less sunshine on the 2nd, with some patchy light rain in the far north-west. Cloudy on the 3rd with patchy light rain and only a few sunny intervals. A band of rain on the 4th meant a generally wet and dull day. After early rain had passed through, the 5th was a dry and sunny day. Sunshine and occasional showers on the 6th. The 7th had showers, then a more organised band of rain moved up from the south-west in the afternoon, clearing to more showers by the evening. Sunshine and showers on the 8th, these showers becoming more widespread and thundery by late morning and into the afternoon but dying out by evening.

9th to 16th:

The 9th was fine and bright, with the best of the sunshine in the south. It was generally cloudy for most places on the 10th but mainly dry. Cloud remained over central areas on the 11th but it was mainly dry and warm with Usk (Monmouthshire) recording 26.0 °C. A dry and bright start on the 12th but patchy rain spread from the west during the afternoon. The 13th was generally dry and bright. The 14th started bright but patchy rain spread from the west during the afternoon. The 15th was dry and warm with sunny spells. After a bright start on the 16th, a band of rain spread from the west during the afternoon.

17th to 20th:

The 17th was mainly dry with sunny spells, and warm again, but showers spread into southern areas in late evening. Overnight thunderstorms cleared by the morning of the 18th to leave a bright, dry and warm day with 27.3 °C recorded at Gogardann (Ceredigion). An area of heavy showers and thunderstorms spread from the south during the early hours of the 19th and reached northern areas in the afternoon. Mainly dry and bright on the 20th with only very isolated showers.

21st to 31st:

It was mainly dry and warm with sunny spells from the 21st to the 23rd, with temperatures at Porthmadog peaking at 29.2 °C on the 23rd, although isolated showers broke out in the Cardiff area later on the same day. It was mainly dry and hot on the 24th and 25th with Porthmadog again reaching 29 °C on both days. The 26th was mainly dry but isolated showers broke out in central areas in the afternoon and more general rain spread into the north-west in the evening. The 27th was mainly dry and bright, with scattered showers in northern areas, and temperatures closer to average. The 28th was mainly dry and bright, with only a few scattered showers in southern coastal areas. The 29th and 30th were dry with sunny spells but there was more cloud inland. A band of patchy rain spread from the west during the morning of the 31st which cleared during the afternoon.

Scotland diary of highlights

The month started with a spell of unsettled weather, with heavy rain and showers especially over western areas. The remainder of the month was warmer, with plenty of sunshine, but also further showers around mid-

month and in the last few days. There was a brief hot spell from 23rd to 25th.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.2 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall overall was 87% of average. Sunshine amounts were well above average: Scotland overall received 137% of average sunshine hours, and this was the 6th sunniest July in a series from 1929.

1st to 8th:

After a dry start on the 1st, showers developed in most areas through the afternoon. A wet day for most on the 2nd as rain spread eastwards across the country. Showery outbreaks of rain in the west on the 3rd but drier further east. Starting wet in the west on the 4th, with heavy rain pushing east during the afternoon but becoming more fragmented. A mainly dry start on the 5th but showers, heavy at times, built up through the day for many areas. The 6th was another day of heavy thundery showers for most areas. Still unsettled on the 7th with heavy showers or longer spells of rain in the west spreading east through the day but easing off during the afternoon. A wet start over southern parts on the 8th, the rain gradually moving north and becoming more showery.

9th to 11th:

Dry and bright for most areas on the 9th. It was another dry and bright day on the 10th, and also very warm with 25.2 °C recorded at Glasgow, Bishopton. Fine, dry and warm again on the 11th after an overcast start in the east with some mist or fog in places.

12th to 20th:

Mainly dry at first in the east on the 12th but rain spread from the west during the afternoon and evening. Dry for most on the 13th but there was showery rain in the east at first. A mainly dry start in the east on the 14th and feeling fresher but rain spread across from the west through the day. The 15th was mainly dry, apart from a few showers in the west especially during the morning. Rain spread across most areas on the 16th with some heavy bursts at times. Apart from a few isolated showers it was a dry and warm day on the 17th. It was mostly dry on the 18th but some heavy showers developed in the south and west later in the afternoon. Most areas were wet on the 19th with some heavy rain at times, and fog in the east during the evening and overnight. Rain in the north-east mostly cleared during the afternoon of the 20th, and a mainly dry day elsewhere with some scattered showers but with some warm evening sunshine in the south-east.

21st to 25th:

Most of the country was dry and warm on the 21st. Warmer still on the 22nd, and dry again apart from some rain on the western fringes later on. Mist and fog in the east soon burned off on the 23rd, then fine and very warm with 27.9 °C recorded at Achnagart (Highland). Overcast with some mist or fog in some eastern areas on the 24th but becoming very sunny and warm again with 29.4 °C recorded at Kinlochewe (Highland), making it the warmest day of the year so far. The 25th was dry and warm again.

26th to 31st:

After a dry start for most on the 26th, an area of heavy rain moved slowly eastwards across the country through the day. Rain for most areas at some point on the 27th but this eventually cleared away southwards in the evening. A mainly dry day on the 28th apart from showers in the west during the evening. The 29th was breezy with some showers, especially in the west. Another fresh day on the 30th with some scattered showers, and then most areas had frequent showers on the 31st.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

Much of the month brought warmth and sunshine, and it was briefly hot from 23rd to 25th. However, there were also some unsettled periods with rain or showers.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.1 °C above the 1981-2010 average, and this ranks as the equal-6th warmest July in a series from 1910. The month was rather drier than average, particularly in the south and west, with 89% of average overall. It was also a sunny month with 112% of average sunshine hours.

1st to 19th:

The 1st was dry, sunny and very warm. The 2nd started fine too, but brought some rain later on away from the south-east coast. Another mainly dry, sunny and warm day on the 3rd but there were scattered showers in the afternoon. After overnight rain, heavy at times, the 4th was showery, but becoming drier from the north during the afternoon. The 5th and 6th were bright with showers, some heavy but it was largely dry in the south-east. Sunny spells on the 7th, but also some scattered showers mostly in the north. There were a few heavy pulses of rain at first on the 8th, clearing away during the morning to leave a dry, sunny day. After early rain cleared from the north, the 9th was mainly dry and sunny. Apart from a few showers in the south and west, the 10th was again dry and bright, and the 11th continued mainly fine too. The 12th saw periods of rain and showers, heaviest in the north-east. The 13th was mainly dry but cloudy. There was rain overnight into the 14th and then further rain or showers through the day, heaviest in the north-east. The 15th was dry and bright. There were heavy showers for most areas on the 16th, easing by evening. A mainly dry and bright day on the 17th, and becoming warm. A few heavy showers at first on the 18th in the Belfast area then mostly dry and bright. The 19th started dry but there was rain in the north and east during the afternoon and sunshine was scarce.

20th to 25th:

The 20th and 21st were mainly dry, rather cloudy on the 20th but with more in the way of sunshine on the 21st. The 22nd was dry and sunny apart from a spell of showery rain in the afternoon. It continued dry, sunny and hot from the 23rd to the 25th, with maximum temperatures generally above 25 °C and reaching 28.9 °C at Giant's Causeway (County Antrim) on the 25th.

26th to 31st:

There was rain followed by showers on the 26th, some heavy in the north, with temperatures nearer normal. Rain extended southwards on 27th, most prolonged and heavy in the north with 23.8 mm recorded at Banagher Caugh Hill (County Londonderry), but cleared during the evening. Mainly fine on the 28th, but some rain for most places later. Mainly cloudy with scattered showers on the 29th. Overnight rain cleared early on the 30th to leave a bright day with a few scattered showers. More in the way of showers for the 31st, some of them heavy.

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